



MILL BAY GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

Website: www.millbaygardenclub.com Email: mbgcnewsletter@gmail.com

JANUARY 2015

Next Meeting

January 27, 2015

The January meeting of the Mill Bay Garden Club will take place on Tuesday, January 27th at 7 PM at the Mill Bay Community League Hall - 1001 Shawnigan Mill Bay Road.

The doors open at 6:30 pm to provide you with the opportunity to check out the Club library and plant sale table, buy your raffle tickets, put your exhibits on the brag table and socialize. This is a great little garden club that is very social.



January Brag Table Theme:

WONDERS OF WINTER

With plant and flower identification and commentary provided by Barb Kohlman, the Brag Table is a great part of our monthly meetings. It's a fun and interactive way to share what's going on in your garden without having 150 club members trying to find parking outside of your house. The bonus is a prize awarded randomly to one of the monthly participants in this program. If you've never participated, give it a fling, be it flower, vegetable or fungus

JANUARY SPEAKER:

Cliff Stainsby

**Year Round Food
Production**

January Kitchen Duties:

Dianne Regan

1 litre of 2% milk:

Louise Ketilson

Cookies/ Goodies:

Judeen Hendrickson, Bev Davy, Megan O'Hara

Kitchen Helpers:

Rosemary Kennedy, Ian Kennedy

Set up / Clean Up:

Kathy Code, Roger Burgess, Debbie Craig,

Eric Koob

Remember to bring your mug!



**DON'T
FORGET!
BRING YOUR
MUG FOR THE BREAK**



Library Report

our friendly librarian Janice Rose

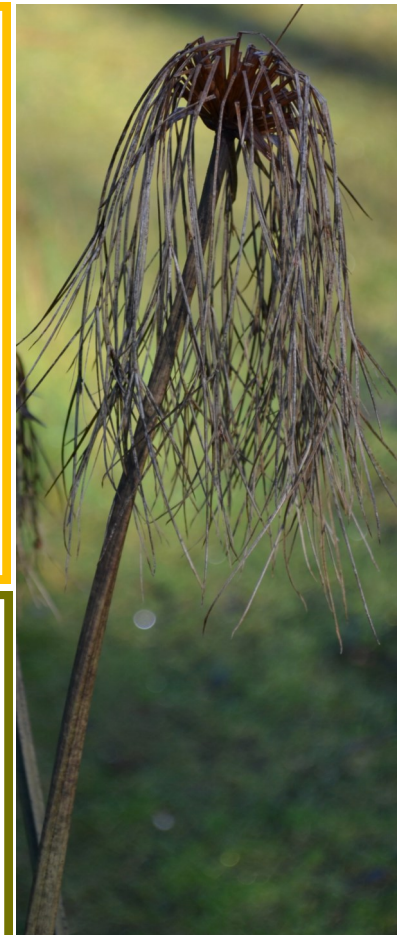


Old Chinese Proverb:

To be happy for an hour get drunk,

To be happy for a year fall in love,

To be happy for a lifetime take up gardening.



Raffle

Carmel Haley

A special Thank You to Bernie from Dinter Nursery for providing a gorgeous gift basket of goodies as the grand prize at our Christmas dinner.



Thank you for the generosity of these local businesses for helping make our November raffle table a big success:



Gardening Tips

By Barb Kohlman, Master Gardener

Tips for Jan/Feb 2015



◆ GARDEN STAKES:

When pruning your *Buddleia davidii* (butterfly bush) save the nice straight branches for stakes. This pruning should be done down to about 12" every spring for healthy, productive new growth.

◆ TRAINING WAYWARD BRANCHES:

When a branch on a tree wants to grow straight up instead of weeping, tie a weight (e.g. a litre bottle filled with water) onto the offending branch (suggest two-thirds out from the trunk) with a bungee cord, leave for a few months till the branch is growing as desired.

◆ TOMATO CAGE "MARKS THE SPOT":

When sowing seeds directly into the garden use a tomato cage or a wire mesh basket upside down to mark the spot until seeds mature, thereby avoiding the planting on top accident. I use the mesh hanging baskets to keep rabbits from chewing on my new young plants too.

◆ GLOVE TRICK:

When your right hand glove wears out, turn it inside out and pair with a new right hand glove to extend their life.

◆ LINE CONTAINERS:

To keep potting soil from falling through drain holes, line your pots with coffee filters. Excess water is free to escape as well.

◆ HELLEBORES = now is the time!

1. Prune off old, damaged and diseased leaves whenever possible.
2. Before bloom, remove foliage that will obscure flowers on stemless plants.
3. After bloom,
 - remove spent flowers on stemless plants
 - remove flowered stems at the base for plants that flower on stems

Mill Bay Garden Club General Meeting Minutes Tuesday November 25, 2014

President – Cliff Stainsby

- 7:05 p.m. Call to order.
- Acceptance of agenda.
- Motion to accept minutes of October's meeting:
 - Moved by Mary
 - Seconded by Norman
 - Carried
- Thank you to set up & kitchen crews. Signup sheet being circulated for help with setup and Christmas party.
- There will be several resignations from the executive committee and a candidate search committee will be formed in January 2015 to start the process of finding replacements
- Community Flower and Garden Show new Chairman is Bernie Juurlink. Janice Rose and Dianne Regan are co-chairs. If you are interested in being on the committee contact Dianne Regan HCP membership will be paid and tour being organized for Saturday March 21, 2015. Participants to meet at Mill Bay Community Hall probably at 9:00am for car pooling. The tour at the HCP will begin at 10:00am. By show of hands over 1/3 of membership are interested in participating.
- Motion to pay tour guide with club funds.
 - Moved by Norman Redcliffe
 - Seconded by Janice Rose
 - Carried
- MBGC to pay HCP fee of \$25 for Barb Kohlman to be our guide. If more than 25 participants, another guide will be hired. The money will go to the HCP itself.
- Christmas party is Tuesday December 9th
 - setup at 4:30
 - doors open at 5:30
 - dinner begins at 6

- Janice is bringing mustard mousse to accompany baked ham.
- Barb and Dianne are each roasting a turkey.
- Bring an item for the food bank or \$. Items such as tinned beans, tomatoes, tuna, flour, sugar, rice, peanut butter are welcome items.
- Bring a potluck dish to share, cutlery, dishes and a gift for \$10 or less for present exchange.
- Each member will receive a free raffle ticket.
- Bill & Pip will lead us in singing Carols.

Vice President – Joy Story

- January's speaker is Cliff Stainsby and he will talk about year round gardening.

Treasurer's Report – Gale McIntyre

- Permanent green name tags are available for \$10.
- Janice, Barb and Dianne please bring receipts for Christmas turkeys and ham so you can be reimbursed.

Membership – Arlene Dench

- 9 renewals
- 1 new member
- 2 former members have rejoined.
- Reminder to please pay your dues as a large number of the membership have not yet paid.

Website – Kerry Davis

- Kerry will talk to people who originally set up the Website in order to find out how to fix a couple of small problems.

Library – Janice Rose

- Marie Cook donated books tonight.
- Books borrowed tonight do not have to be returned until January 2015 meeting.

Minutes continued on page 5

Plant Sales – Heather Jenkins

- Thank you for garlic and book donations from members this evening.
- Three hellebores for sale from Susan Green donations.

table centerpiece, a swag with lights interwoven and a tree made with tomato cages and a swag interwoven with lights and wrapped around the cage.

Meeting adjourned 9:15 pm.

Raffle – Carmel Haley & Bobbie Burns

- 2 members donated prizes for this evening.

Historian – Mary Gale

- Thank you Mary Vandenberg for hand delivering the newsletter to her each month.

Members Forum

- Ajay is putting up his Disney Christmas display Sunday December 7th from noon to 3 pm, drop by if you would like to help. Drive past after the Christmas dinner and take a look.
- Elaine mentions the Victoria Horticultural Society event Sunday February 22, 2015 2:30pm, Salvation Army Citadel in Victoria. 200 tickets available for \$20/each.
- Joy Story donated a jar of her fermented vegetables to the brag table. They are good for digestion. Plant your sweet peas, shallots and broad beans now.

Brag Table – Barb Kohlman

- Take leaves off rose plants and cut off the blooms to preserve energy for the next growing season.

Coffee Break

Speaker – Pat Spezowka

- Decorating for the Holidays
- Pat lives in Mill Bay and is a new member. She teaches cake decorating and instructs elder college courses.
- Pat suggests using moss to make a tree for the table.
- Pat showed us how to make a tree from cedar and fir branches for a



175 Arbutus Road, Salt Spring Island
(250) 537-5788

<http://www.thimblefarms.com/>

HELLEBORGANZA FEBRUARY 13th - March 31st 2015

Open 7days a week 9:00am -4:30pm

Our Hellebore Extravaganza

We would like to invite your garden club to our Hellebore festival, "Helleborganza" February 13-March 31st. This event features our incredible selection of Hellebores and this year we will have over 225 varieties!

Helleborganza is our festival of winter blooming perennials. We have put together a selection of amazing winter bloomers from around the world and this event offers a unique opportunity to see many of them in bloom. Thousands of plants in bloom brings people from all over Vancouver Island and the lower mainland to Salt Spring and last year, individuals from as far as Seattle and Bellingham came to the nursery. It is amazing to see the infectious excitement generated in people when they are around so many blooming plants in the middle of winter.

We have Hellebores represented from growers in Great Britain, Germany, Belgium, Japan, Taiwan, Canada and the USA. The next largest group of plants featured are Japanese hepaticas, but there are many others, for example, winter aconites, species snowdrops and Adonis to name a few.

Some links:

Hellebore pages <http://www.thimblefarms.com/hellebore.html>

<http://www.facebook.com/frasersthimblefarm>

The Victoria Horticultural Society HARDY PLANT GROUP presents the 2015 Elizabeth England Lecture

Dan Hinkley

- Plantsman
- Plant collector
- Author
- nurseryman
- creator of Heronswood Nursery
- owner of Windcliff Nursery
- Lecturer

Plant Marriages: Exceptional Combinations of Foliage and Flower

Sunday, February 22nd, 2015
2:30 PM

Salvation Army Citadel
4030 Douglas Street
(north off McKenzie Avenue)

Tickets \$20. Available at VHS and Hardy meetings, *Dig This* stores and at the door.



Horticulture Centre of the Pacific (HCP)

505 Quayle Road, Victoria, BC V9E 2J7
(250) 479-6162

<http://hcp.ca/>

Introduction To Arboriculture

Date/Time

Date(s) - Mar 23, 2015 - Mar 24, 2015
8:30 am - 3:30 pm

Compost Education Centre

1216 North Park Street, Victoria
(250) 386-9676

<http://compost.bc.ca/>

Composting Basics

February 7, 2015 @ 10:00 am – 12:00 pm Free, but you must register

Planning Your Year-Round Veggie Garden

February 14, 2015 @ 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm \$15/members, \$20/non-members

Grow Your Own Oyster Mushrooms at Home

February 28, 2015 @ 10:00 am – 12:00 pm \$30/members, \$35/non-members

Native Pollinators

February 28, 2015 @ 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm \$15/members, \$20/non-members

Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary

3873 Swan Lake Victoria

Phone: (250) 479-0211 <http://www.swanlake.bc.ca/>

Native Plant Gardening Workshops:

February 15	Sunday	1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
February 24	Tuesday	9:30 am - 12:30 pm
March 14	Saturday	9:30 am - 12:30 pm
March 22	Sunday	1:00 pm- 4:00 pm
April 15	Wednesday	9:30 am - 12:30 pm
May 3	Sunday	1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

All workshops are free, but you must pre-register. Please call (250) 479-0211

Vancouver Island Seedy Saturdays and Sundays 2015

Qualicum Beach Seedy Saturday

Saturday February 7th, 2015 . 10-3:30pm, Qualicum Beach Civic Centre, 747 Jones Street
"Sow the Seeds" Kick start the growing season! Fun and educational for the whole family.
No entry fee but donations accepted.

Salt Spring Seedy Saturday

Saturday February 14th, 2015, 10-3pm, Farmers' Institute , 351 Rainbow Rd.
Presentations, seed exchange...and more! Saltspring's 20th Annual Seedy Saturday:
'Sowing the Seeds of Love'

Victoria Seedy Saturday

Saturday February 21st, 2015, 10-4pm, Victoria Conference Centre, 750 Douglas St.
Seedy Saturday is Victoria's annual seed and garden show with commerce, education and networking opportunities for all gardening enthusiasts.

Sooke Seedy Saturday

Saturday February 28th, 2015, 10-3pm, Sooke Community Hall, 2037 Shields Rd.
6th Annual Sooke Seedy Saturday! Get prepared and inspired for the coming growing season, browse a diverse range of seed and plant vendors, attend workshops and more!

Nanaimo Seedy Sunday

Sunday March 1st, 2015, 10-3pm, Nanaimo District Secondary School, 355 Wakesiah.
Nanaimo's 11th Annual Seedy Sunday. Trade or purchase local organic and non hybrid seeds, native plants, bee houses and other tools of self-reliance.

Courtenay Seedy Saturday

Saturday March 7th, 2015, 10-3pm, Florence Filberg Centre, Comox Valley
Seedy Saturday launches the growing season in the Comox Valley. The event includes a community seed swap, trade show and expert speakers, as well as kids' activities and a café!

Duncan Seedy Sunday

Sunday March 8th, 2015, 10-2pm, Cowichan Tribes Gymnasium Si'em Lelum, 5574 River Rd.
This event will feature local seed vendors, live plant and garden vendors, a seed exchange , a series of garden workshops, kids' activities and community information booths.

Cobble Hill Seedy Saturday

Saturday March 14th, 2015 , 10-3pm, Cobble Hill Hall, 3550 Watson Ave.
Community Seed Exchange, Vendors of Heritage seeds, organic seeds, locally grown plants, displays and info. Free admission

Port Alberni's Seedy Saturday

Saturday March 28th , 2015, 10-2pm, Arrowvale Campground/Collins Farm, 5955 Hector Rd.
Seed savers and sellers, swap table, guest speakers and more!

Cowichan Green Community

Fruit Tree Care and Pruning Workshop

Date/Time

Date(s) - Saturday, February 21, 2015
9:00 am - 3:30 pm

Location

Cowichan Green Community Meeting Room
360 Duncan Street
Duncan



Good tree health is critical to good production in your orchard, whether it consists of 5 trees or 500 trees.

Join ISA Certified Arborist and Urban Forester Todd Gesshe for this day-long workshop on basic tree biology, fruit tree health, philosophy of pruning, and hands-on pruning procedures at a local farm.

This is a great opportunity to learn fruit tree basics in time to prune your trees and ensure they are healthy for the coming season. You will also have an opportunity to ask questions of the instructor related to your own trees. This workshop is offered once a year only!

Seating is limited to 25 participants, so please register early. Cost is \$35 for CGC members and \$40 for the general public. You can register in-person at the Garden Pantry Thrift Store located at 360 Duncan Street .

The workshop will be held at the Cowichan Green Community Meeting Room at 360 Duncan Street. Bring your lunch to the workshop, and tea will be provided.